**Diocesan Clergy Retreat**

For the past three years we have had a diocesan clergy retreat in Hudson. St. Paul’s Church has been a most gracious host to us. This year about 25 clergy attended the September 18-20 event. Mr. Jim Gettel, Canon for Congregational Life of the Diocese of Michigan, was our leader. Jim wrote a book on congregational development entitled, “Where Jesus Leads.” While Jim worked with aspects of his book, he also spent much time on newer material.

He focused upon the importance of belonging as the primary reason people join a church. Belonging is an instinctual human need. Second to it is formation in the faith—a cognitive quality. While both elements are important for new members, we need to remember that belonging comes first. This means that we must work to do our best to be loving Church communities and to join other groups. As we engage people outside the Church we can gently share our Christian faith and values. The feedback that I picked up from the clergy was that the teachings of Jim Gettel were immensely practical. Also the subject matter encouraged us to develop a strong sense of community among ourselves.

 —Bishop Jay Lambert